



State of Connecticut  
Department of Developmental Services

**DDS**

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**DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES TESTIMONY  
BEFORE THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE**

March 5, 2014

Senator Gerratana, Representative Johnson, and members of the Public Health Committee. I am Terrence W. Macy, Ph.D., Commissioner of the Department of Developmental Services (DDS). Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of **S.B. No. 295 An Act Concerning the Department of Public Health's Recommendation Regarding Waiver of Sovereign Immunity.**

This bill deletes Connecticut General Statutes § 19a-24. This provision treats the commissioners at the Department of Public Health (DPH) and the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) differently from all other state agency commissioners in that it allows a claim for damages in excess of \$7,500 to be brought against them as a civil action in state court, bypassing the Claims Commissioner.

Deletion of this outdated provision will make clear that claims against the state, including those against the DPH and DDS, must be filed with the Claims Commissioner pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes § 4-141 et seq. Additionally, there are 1983 actions (civil rights violations), which can also go directly to court.

We appreciate the Department of Public Health's efforts to repeal this statute and for including DDS in this initiative.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify on **Senate Bill 295**. Please contact Christine Pollio Cooney, DDS Director of Legislative and Executive Affairs at (860) 418-6066 if you have any questions for us regarding this bill.